

It's "March Madness" Time for Southern New England CoCoRaHS!



CoCoRaHS March Madness is our friendly recruiting contest between all 50 states to see who can recruit the most new volunteers during the 31 days of March. There is always a need for a greater number of observations, as the saying goes "*the rain doesn't fall the same on all.*" Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be quite different only a few miles away. **Join CoCoRaHS and begin reporting!** The more observations we have, the clearer the picture, and the better the understanding of where it did and did not rain.

The contest is broken down into two categories: "**Traditional Count**" for the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers in March and the "**Per Capita**" or population weighted count for the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of its total population.

The winning state in each category receives the "**CoCoRaHS Cup**" (pictured above) to keep and exhibit for a year until next year's contest! ***Let's bring the Cup to Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island this year!!!***

CoCoRaHS is a unique, nonprofit, community-based, citizen-science network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation including rain, hail and snow. Observers in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and even The White House submit daily precipitation amounts through a web site or a mobile app. In Year 2015, over 20,000 CoCoRaHS observers submitted over 4 million reports!

How do you sign up? Go to the CoCoRaHS website (www.cocorahs.org) and click on the “**Join CoCoRaHS**” orange box on the upper right side of the main website. After registering, order your 4 inch diameter rain gauge and start reporting! **You can obtain the network’s 4 inch diameter plastic rain gauge through the CoCoRaHS website for about \$30 plus shipping.** Many other commercial weather supply companies also sell the 4 inch diameter rain gauge. Once you sign up on the web site, take simple online training modules and you’re ready to report!

An additional benefit of the program is the ability for National Weather Service offices to immediately receive reports of significant weather (hail, intense rainfall, and flooding) directly from CoCoRaHS observers. **These reports help forecasters issue timely warnings for severe weather.**

CoCoRaHS began at Colorado State University in 1998, after a devastating flash flood that occurred in Fort Collins, Colorado, in late July 1997 caused \$200 million in damages and the loss of 5 lives. CoCoRaHS was created with the intent of doing a better job of mapping and reporting intense storms. As more volunteers participated, rain, hail, and snow maps were produced for every storm showing fascinating local patterns that were of great interest to scientists and the public.

From its current headquarters at Colorado State University, CoCoRaHS was introduced to Rhode Island in April, 2008, to Massachusetts in March, 2009 and to Connecticut in July, 2009. In Year 2016, CoCoRaHS will add the islands of the Bahamas to its growing international network.

For more information, contact one of the State Coordinators listed below or visit these CoCoRaHS State Pages:

Connecticut: Matt Spies (matt.spies@att.net)

State Page: <http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=ct>

Massachusetts: Joe DelliCarpini (Joseph.Dellicarpini@noaa.gov)

State Page: <http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=ma>

Rhode Island: Bill Simpson (William.Simpson@noaa.gov) or Joe DelliCarpini

State page: <http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=ri>

